



## **NATIONAL MED WEEK 2004 OVERVIEW**

The National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week is the largest federally sponsored activity held on behalf of minority business enterprise. This year marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National MED Week celebration, an event that provides a forum which recognizes the significant contributions made by minority business enterprises (MBEs), highlights tools and strategies for the MBE community, and permits minority entrepreneurs, corporations and advocates to collaborate and network to develop strategic partnerships in the business community.

The Conference will be held September 7-10, 2004, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, in Washington, D.C. This year's Conference theme, ***“Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority,”*** highlights the keys to entrepreneurial growth and access to success. A pre-Conference event, the “Emerging Business Leaders Summit,” will be held September 5-7, 2004. National MED Week is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) in collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Government Contracting and Business Development and their respective public and private partners.

### **NATIONAL MED WEEK 2004 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:**

**MINORITY BUSINESS SUMMITS, FORUMS AND WORKSHOPS** – Features prominent public-private speakers discussing cutting-edge policy and political issues facing minority businesses.

**EMERGING BUSINESS LEADERS SUMMIT** – A pre-Conference multi-faceted training opportunity for post-secondary education students interested in entrepreneurial opportunities.

**BUSINESS EXPO** – Features multinational corporations, federal agencies and minority companies. The event provides participants with the opportunity to define their procurement needs, showcase their products and services, and establish solid strategic partnerships with potential business partners.

**SPECIAL NETWORKING EVENTS** – Held throughout the Conference providing attendees with opportunities to develop relationships for new and increased levels of business opportunities and to acquire knowledge about issues affecting today's challenging business environment.

**THREE INFORMATIVE LUNCHEONS** – Features keynote public-private speakers addressing minority business strategic growth and development initiatives.

**AWARDS RECOGNITION CEREMONIES** – Highlights the accomplishments of minority businesses. The Nation’s prominent minority entrepreneurs, minority business advocates and leaders in the corporate community will also be recognized.

## **AWARDS**

Awards are presented by MBDA and SBA to minority-owned businesses selected from nominations received from their respective national Regional and District Offices. Nominations are reviewed and evaluated by panels in the Regional Offices. The top contenders are forwarded to MBDA and SBA Headquarters’ offices and evaluated by review panels. Those chosen for national recognition are reviewed for appropriate clearances and subsequently notified to coordinate their attendance and participation in the awards process.

Awards are also presented to business leaders who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in minority business achievements and to corporate officials whose companies have provided substantial support for minority business development. A listing of the various awards is provided below:

The MBDA presents minority business awards in the following categories:

- National Minority Business Advocate of the Year
- National Minority Construction Firm of the Year
- National Minority Entrepreneur of the Year (One Male, One Female)
- National Minority Exporter of the Year
- National Minority Manufacturer of the Year
- National Minority Media Cornerstone Award
- National Minority Retail Firm of the Year
- National Minority Service Firm of the Year
- National Minority Supplier/Distributor of the Year
- National Minority Technology Firm of the Year

The MBDA presents special awards in the following categories:

- Distinguished Supplier Diversity Awards - presented to large and small or medium-sized businesses recognizing outstanding programs and performance that foster and support the growth of minority-owned businesses;
- Pioneer Award - presented to individuals or organizations recognizing excellence and innovation in their business endeavors, and a commitment to the socio-economic and entrepreneurial growth of their communities.
- Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award - presented in memory of the late Secretary of Commerce's role as an outstanding advocate for minority business entrepreneurship and diversity in the global marketplace; and
- National Director’s Legacy Awards - presented at the discretion of the National Director recognizing exemplary achievement and excellence.

The SBA presents awards in the following categories:

- National Minority Small Business Person of the Year and Regional winners
- National Minority 8(a) Graduate of the Year
- SBA Administrator’s Award

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Funding for National MED Week is provided primarily by MBDA and SBA, supplemented through Conference fees charged to participants and contributions from corporate America and other public sector agencies. Corporations sponsor specific events and provide general financial support to help defray the overall cost of the MED Week observance.

National MED Week is an excellent venue to display commitment to and support for the rapidly growing minority business community and an exceptional medium for minority entrepreneurs to network with potential purchasers of their goods and services. Your support will be mutually beneficial and instrumental to the success of National MED Week 2004.

**WEBSITE** For more information visit [www.medweek.gov](http://www.medweek.gov).

Conference Registration:	1-877-MEDWeek	(1-877-633-9335)
Hotel Reservations:	1-800-The Omni	(1-800-843-6664)

***MED Week***

***Empowerment  
Through  
Entrepreneurship***

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MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK



***National MED Week 2004 Conference***

***“Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority”***

**September 7-10, 2004**

**Omni Shoreham Hotel -- Washington, D.C.**

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency, in collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration and public and private sector partners, will commemorate the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, which has been designated by Presidential Proclamation since 1983. National MED Week is the largest federally sponsored activity held on behalf of minority business development. Regional MED Week events will be held throughout the country leading up to the National MED Week Conference.

National MED Week 2004 provides a forum to discuss the continued growth and development of minority business enterprises (MBEs). As the Nation’s largest federally sponsored Conference held on behalf of MBE development, this joint public-private sector event highlights the significant contributions made by MBEs and will focus on the tools and strategies needed by this vital segment of the business community to achieve economic and entrepreneurial parity in the world-wide economy. The Conference represents one of the most empowering events held for the purpose of minority entrepreneurs, corporations and advocates to collaborate and network to develop strategic partnerships in the business community. Conference networking sessions and information forums provide valuable information concerning public-private sector programs and business opportunities, and cover legislation and regulations that impact MBE growth and development. The Business Expo showcases MBEs and other public and private sector exhibitors sharing information on their goods and services and procurement needs. National MED Week 2004 also provides networking opportunities with key decision-makers and recognizes the Nation’s leading MBEs and representatives from the public and private sectors that support minority business growth and development.

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL MED WEEK 2004 WILL INCLUDE:**

- ✓ **WHITE HOUSE BREAKFAST SERIES** featuring senior White House advisors addressing the President's minority and small business growth and development initiatives;
- ✓ **INFORMATION VENUES & WORKSHOPS** featuring prominent public and private sector business leaders;
- ✓ **EMERGING BUSINESS LEADERS SUMMIT** providing pre-Conference training opportunities for post-secondary students exploring entrepreneurial opportunities;
- ✓ **BUSINESS EXPO** showcasing minority entrepreneurs, and other public-private sector exhibitors sharing information about their products and services and procurement needs;
- ✓ **NETWORKING RECEPTIONS** offering unique opportunities to meet key decision-makers and to develop strategic partnerships with potential clients and suppliers;
- ✓ **INFORMATIVE LUNCHEONS** featuring public-private speakers addressing the world-wide economy and minority business growth and development initiatives; and
- ✓ **AWARD CEREMONIES** honoring the Nation's leading MBEs and MBE supporters.

**AND MUCH MORE!**

*Be sure to register early!*

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**1-877-MEDWeek (1-877-633-9335)**

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**Website:**

**[www.medweek.gov](http://www.medweek.gov)**